

Surveillance of cardiovascular diseases in the Italian adult population

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Surveillance of cardiovascular diseases in the Italian adult population

Luigi Palmieri

Summary

A surveillance integrated system, considered as the ongoing systematic collection, analysis, interpretation and dissemination of health information, is essential in measuring the impact of efforts to prevent chronic diseases and specifically Cardiovascular Diseases.

The assessment of an updated and integrated picture of the occurrence (National Register of Cardiovascular Events), incidence (longitudinal studies), and prevalence (MIAMOD model studies) of main cardiovascular diseases by one sight, and the evaluation of distribution of main risk factors and conditions (CEO/HES studies) deriving by the different studies described through the publications cited in this thesis, confirm that cardiovascular diseases remain a priority for health in the Italian population, even though important improvements have been obtained in recent periods (CHD mortality reduction between 1980 and 2000 explained using the IMPACT model).

The primary purpose of establishing and maintaining a system of surveillance is to provide health workers and policy makers with a reliable tool to plan cost-effective strategies to meet the demands for health care and prevention in the population.